

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Toby Tam on April 9, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel without prejudice claims 154-155.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims are drawn to a method of sequencing a target nucleic acid using mass spectrometry and a nucleic acid array. Unlabeled target nucleic acid fragments hybridized to the array are released from the array and analyzed by mass spectrometry. The closest prior art is Köster (WO 94/16101) in view of Cantor (USPN 5,530,980). Köster teaches mass spectrometry for nucleic acid sequencing and Cantor teaches analysis of labeled nucleic acids on an array. Neither Köster nor Cantor teaches or suggests using mass spectrometry for sequencing of unlabeled target nucleic acids on an array.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Heather G. Calamita whose telephone number is 571.272.2876 and whose e-mail address is heather.calamita@uspto.gov. However, the office cannot guarantee security through the e-mail system nor should official papers be transmitted through this route. The examiner can normally be reached on

Art Unit: 1637

Monday through Thursday, 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached at 571.272.0782.

Papers related to this application may be faxed to Group 1637 via the PTO Fax Center using the fax number 571.273.8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to 571.272.0547.

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/Heather G. Calamita/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1637